CLAIMS

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from:

(a) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, to a nucleotide sequence complementary the polypeptide coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and

(c) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.

2. An isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

3. The isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 having an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 3 in the Sequence Listing

4. A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

5. A replicable expression vector, which carries and is capable of mediating the expression of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

6. A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 4 or 5.

7. A process for production of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 6 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.

8. A method for identifying an agent useful for activating the expression of a mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising the steps
(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
(ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the said mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule.

9. A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
(ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the mammalian IPAS nucleotide sequence, such activation being indicative for an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.

10. A method for identifying an agent useful for stimulating the biological activities of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, said method comprising the steps
(i) contacting a candidate agent with the mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and
(ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide.

11. A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
(i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and

(ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide, such stimulation being indicative for an agent useful for the treatment of a medical condition related to angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.

12. Use of an agent identified by the method according to any one of claims 8 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth.

13. A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to any one of claims 8 to 11.

14. The use or method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.